

July
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1956
(I)
CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

*on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the District
for the Year Ended 31st
December, 1956 . . .*

Medical Officer of Health :
L. RICH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :
P. KIRKHAM, M.S.I.A.

Engineer and Surveyor :
R. O. BIRTWISTLE, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.I.C.S.

To the Chairman and members of the Congleton
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Rural District for the year 1956.

Once again there has been an increase in the estimated population, which now stands at 13,600. There has been a fall in the number of births and the number of deaths is the same. From the tables showing the causes of death, it will be noted that where definite diagnoses have been established, the majority of deaths are accounted for by diseases of the heart and blood vessels and cancer, with diseases of the lung as a third major cause.

There has not been any undue prevalence of infectious disease during the year. However, 24 cases of Scarlet Fever and 37 cases of Whooping Cough were notified. Scarlet Fever continues to be mild, but it is regrettable that so many cases of Whooping Cough are occurring when it is possible for parents to have their children protected against this disease.

During the year, there were no cases of Poliomyelitis notified. An important step forward in the field of prevention against this disease has been the institution of Poliomyelitis Vaccination. This involved a great deal of publicity and lecturing and as a result, 2,700 people registered for vaccination. The material has been slow in coming to hand and during the year only approximately one tenth of the people registered were vaccinated. It is anticipated that during the coming year, a very considerable amount of work will have to be done in order to meet the demand from the public for this important vaccination.

There were 5 cases of Tuberculosis notified, 4 of them of the Pulmonary variety. In this connection, I am somewhat disturbed by the falling off in the consent by parents to have the B.C.G. Vaccination. Experience has now shown that this vaccine is extremely safe and free from complications. The immunity provided is very satisfactory and without doubt, it is going to prevent serious disease later on in life. As will be noted from the figures later on in this report, Tuberculosis is still a prevalent disease. When it attacks

a family, it causes untold misery and dislocation, and despite new drugs and prompt hospitalisation, it is a disease which takes a long time to clear up.

A major step forward in the prevention of Tuberculosis was the inclusion of our District in a Specified Area, which means that only designated milks may now be retailed. The effect of this measure should be that in the years to come, Bovine Tuberculosis should slowly disappear from the list of notified diseases.

Progress has been made in the care of mothers and young children, in that Midwives' Clinics have been established at Congleton, Sandbach and Alsager which, to a certain extent, cater for mothers in the Rural District. These clinics are proving to be extremely popular, and has revealed a very necessary want on the part of the mothers. I have been checking up on the results of some of the mothers who have attended these relaxation clinics, and, although I have no figures to quote, my impression is that the duration of labour has significantly reduced, and whilst no one would deny that labour is an unpleasant occurrence, much of the fear and ignorance about this event has been dispelled.

Of the 160 births that have taken place in the Rural District, approximately 100 occurred in hospital and the remainder at home. As the standard of accommodation improves, it is expected that more home births will occur.

Every effort is made by the Health Visitors, Doctors in the Clinics and publicity by poster and in the press, to stimulate the parents to bring their children forward for immunisation and vaccination. The response appears to be fairly steady, but without doubt could be improved upon.

Continued and satisfactory progress is being made in dealing with unfit houses in the district, and the work of the Public Health Inspector as outlined in his section of this report is highly creditable.

The policy of the Council with regard to Improvement Grants is very progressive and the number of houses dealt with in 1956 show a considerable increase.

Some progress has been made in dealing with the various sewage schemes that the Council has in hand, and it is hoped that the Goostrey Scheme will shortly be completed.

Once again, I wish to thank your Clerk and his staff for the help and guidance in enabling me to carry out my duties. I wish to record also, the excellent work being carried out by our Public Health Inspector, Mr. P. Kirkham, M.S.I.A., and the assistance given me by him and your Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. R. O. Birtwistle, in the preparation of this report.

I beg to remain,
Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,
Medical Officer of Health

Throughout this report, the figures in brackets are for the year 1955 and are for purposes of comparison.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population	13600	(13510)
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Births—

			Total	Male	Female
Live Births :					
Legitimate	161 (186)	92 (92)	69 (94)
Illegitimate	3 (4)	2 (—)	1 (4)
Still Births :					
Legitimate	...	...	2 (1)	— (—)	2 (1)
Illegitimate	...	...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1956	...	...	...	12.2	(14.3)
Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population	...	...	...	15.7	(15.0)
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	12.0	(5.2)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	23.0	(23.2)
Still birth rate per 1000 total population	...	...	...	.14	(.07)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total population	...	...	...	.37	(.34)

Infantile Mortality—

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	4 (3)	1 (2)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births...	24.3	(15.7)
Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales	23.8	(24.9)
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	24.8	(16.1)
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	—	(—)

Deaths—

		Total	Male	Female
Deaths, all ages	...	307 (305)	147 (135)	160 (170)
Death rate per 1000 estimated average population	...	...	...	11.5 (21.2)
Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population	...	...	...	11.7 (11.7)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year :

CAUSE		T	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other forms of	...	...	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infection	...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—
8. Measles	...	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	2	2	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	6	5	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	2	2	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	5	—	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	5	—	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	17	11	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	...	3	—	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	30	11	19
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	20	14	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	2	1	1
20. Other heart diseases	...	27	9	18
21. Other circulatory diseases	...	10	7	3
22. Influenza	...	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	...	2	2	—
24. Bronchitis	...	13	6	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	7	5	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	2	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	143	63	80
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	4	2	2
34. All other accidents	...	2	2	—
35. Suicide	...	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—	—
TOTAL	...	307	147	160

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis 0 (0)

Other maternal causes 0 (0)

Maternal Mortality rate per 1000 live and still births 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

The attendances at the Welfare Clinics in our District on the whole are satisfactory and I am particularly pleased with the progress being made at Goostrey. The attendance figures at Holmes Chapel are not however satisfactory, and steps are being taken to improve matters here, and it is hoped to show better results when next this report is made.

Welfare Centre	New Cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Goostrey	48	—	—	286	177	353	24	253	10.5
	32	—	—	234	122	195	24	212	8.8
Holmes Chapel ...	28	—	—	250	137	159	23	156	6.7
	46	—	—	339	123	153	23	171	7.4
Mow Cop	16	—	—	141	71	116	24	301	12.5
	9	—	—	93	71	42	24	187	7.7
Rode Heath ...	8	—	—	177	116	129	24	199	8.2
	17	—	—	205	58	101	24	201	8.3
Scholar Green ...	33	—	—	330	125	201	24	238	9.9
	23	—	—	260	167	177	24	250	10.4

The Figures in italics are for 1955

The names of the Health Visitors covering the Rural District are as follows :

Name	Address	Districts
Parkinson, D.	131 Walnut Avenue, Weaverham, Northwich.	Goostrey.
Gratrix, A.	85 Wheelock Street, Middlewich	Church Hulme, Cranage, Tetton.
Clayton, A. (Mrs.)	The Dowery, Barker Street, Nantwich,	Church Lawton, Odd Rode.
Smith, E. G.	15 Centre Court, Alsager. Tel. Alsager 628	Betchton, Hassall, Smallwood.
Spencer, M.	2 Elm Drive, Macclesfield.	Hulme Walfield, Somerford, Somerford Booths, Swettenham, Twemlow.
Jacks, L.	Abbey Croft, Abbey Road, Sandbach. Tel. Sandbach 309.	Arclid, Bradwall, Brereton, Elton.
Corbishley, M.	12 West Street, Congleton. Tel. Congleton 169	Moreton-cum-Alcumlow, Newbold Astbury.

Home Nursing—

The District Nurses serving our area act in double capacity as Home Nurses and Midwives. They are as follows:

V. Spencer, Black and White Cottages, Astbury. Congleton 451

G. Magee, Booth Bank Road, Goostrey. Holmes Chapel 3244

L. B. Blunsum, 19 West Way, Holmes Chapel. Holmes Chapel 2226

H. Barry, 2 Drenfell Road, Scholar Green. Kidsgrove 466

N. W. Evans, 5 Elworth Street, Sandbach. Sandbach 256

During the year, Nurse H. Barry replaced Nurse Richardson at Scholar Green.

The value of the home Nurse in enabling General Practitioners to treat patients at home cannot be too highly stressed. I have noted many instances in our district, where our Home Nurses devote great care and attention to old people, caring for them in their own homes, who otherwise would have to be found accommodation in hospitals or County Homes. During the year no complaints were received from either patients or doctors and it would appear a very satisfactory service is being given.

Births, 1956—

	Hospital		Home		Private	Nursing	Home
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still	Still	—
106	—	68	1	1	(—)	(5)	(—)
(104)	(1)	(72)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)

Vaccination and Immunisation—

A fairly high level of immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough has been maintained, but as pointed out in the introduction, insufficient children are being offered, particularly for the Whooping Cough Immunisation. It is several years now since we have had cases of Diphtheria in this area, and it is regrettable that we should still be getting incidences of Whooping Cough occurring.

STATISTICS

Diphtheria Immunisation—

Pre-school children	...	...	8	(5)
School children	...	...	13	(10)
			21	(15)
			—	—

Reinforcing injections	...	...	197	(34)
			—	—

Whooping Cough Immunisation—

Pre-school children	...	...	3	(11)
School children	...	...	27	(2)
			30	(13)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough)—

Pre-school children	...	...	140	(110)
School children	...	...	28	(15)
			168	(125)

Primary Vaccination—

Pre-school children	...	...	84	(79)
School children	...	...	1	(2)
Adults	...	...	3	(2)
			88	(83)

Re-Vaccination—

Pre-school children	...	...	...	1	(—)
School children	...	...	...	—	(3)
Adults	...	...	...	8	(5)
				9	(8)

Public Health Laboratory Service—

As previously indicated, there were 24 cases of Scarlet Fever notified. These were the result, mainly, of an outbreak of this disease at one school, which proved so uncontrollable as to make it necessary to close the school for one week. During this period, we were greatly assisted by the help and advice given by Dr. Parker of the Public Health Laboratory Service. By frequent swabbing, it was possible to detect the carriers and have them treated and so bring the outbreak to an end.

Ambulance and Sitting Case Car Transport—

The year was marked by a very important change in the organisation of the Ambulance and Sitting-case Transport service. Although this is primarily the responsibility of the County Health Committee, it is operated by the Divisional Committee.

The Contractor's Ambulance Service at Congleton was taken over by the County, and we are now providing a full-time ambulance service in Congleton entirely staffed by County Council employed personnel. The Divisional Committee agreed to employ the Contractor as Supervisor and his existing staff as our own drivers. Steps were taken to see that the men were properly clothed and given the best possible conditions to enable them to carry out their important duties. Classes were arranged in First Aid and each driver is now fully qualified and in possession of the St. John First Aid Certificate. Regular fortnightly meetings are held on a voluntary basis at the Ambulance Station, so the men's knowledge may be maintained and their practise improved.

One County owned ambulance is placed at Alsager and is operated in close unison for work, maintenance and repair with the Congleton service.

The Sandbach service is owned and managed by the British Red Cross Society, but is largely used by the County who pay them for all their services.

It is considered that the present arrangements are very satisfactory and no serious complaint was received during the year.

Domestic Help Service—

As can be seen from the figures, there has been an increase in the cases attended during the year. It has been found everywhere that the work of the Home Help Service is continually increasing. This service, as is well known, assists old people in their homes and delays the necessity of their removal to a County Welfare Home or Hospital.

STATISTICS

Home Helps employed during 1956 :

Full time ...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	14	(11)
Casual ...	...	...	...	...	3	(4)
					—	—
					17	(15)
					—	—

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1956 :

Full time ...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	11	(8)
Casual ...	...	...	...	...	—	(1)
					—	—
					11	(9)
					—	—

Applications received during 1956 :

Confinement	...	...	...	...	2	(2)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	2	(4)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and infirm	...	...	...	...	9	(7)
					—	—
					13	(13)
					—	—

Cases attended during 1956 :

Confinement	...	...	...	...	3	(—)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	4	(5)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	(1)
Aged and infirm	...	...	...	...	20	(7)
					—	—
					27	(13)
					—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply—

I am indebted to Mr. Delwyn G. Davies, Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board for the following information.

The area is served by waters from the Boreholes at Mow Cop, the Boreholes of the Delamere Hills together with a small bulk supply from the Congleton Borough.

In consequence of frost, the water demands of the area reached an all time high.

During the year, bacteriological samples taken in these districts of the filtered water confirm that the supply is pure and wholesome.

Sewerage—

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. R. O. Birtwistle, for the reports on Sewerage and Housing.

Since 1945, the emphasis in the Rural District has been on the building of sufficient houses to meet the needs of the people. These needs having been largely satisfied the trend now is towards improvement of the drainage arrangements in the various villages and the construction of new Sewers and Treatment Works.

The Rural District is largely agricultural except for the industries at Holmes Chapel, Scholar Green, Elton and Tetton. It has sparsely populated parishes containing small village centres which have necessitated building on many sites with the consequent construction of many small treatment plants. A review of the whole of the Sewage Treatment Plants reveals the scope of the Council's activities in this field. Some existed prior to 1939 and some are of post war construction.

Main Works :

Holmes Chapel, Odd Rode, Goostrey.

Subsidiary Works :

Twemlow Green, Malkins Bank, Snapes Aqueduct, Lawton Avenue, Lawton Station, Lawton Heath End.

Housing Scheme Plants :

Ackers Crossing, Astbury (Peel Lane), Blackden (2), Bradwall, Brownlow, Elton, Hulme Walfield, Smallwood (School Lane), Somerford Booths, Tetton.

Septic Tanks :

31 at various Housing Sites.

The works at Goostrey are still only a first instalment, the remainder of the scheme was sanctioned during the year and a Contract for the completion of the scheme was commenced.

The question of laying sewers in the Blackfirs area of the parish of Somerford received consideration, and an Outline Scheme was prepared. The proposals include one to use the Treatment Works at the unoccupied Camp School for this area of the parish. If the school comes into use again, it will be an obligation on the Council to enlarge the capacity of the Works to suit the increased need.

Trade waste discharges to the Council's sewers from factories at Holmes Chapel came under review and after analysis it was shown that some form of pre-treatment was necessary in some cases. In one case, a plant to achieve this was constructed by the factory owner and others are still under review.

Consideration was given to the sewerage of part of the parish of Arclid, making use of surplus capacity in the Treatment Works at the Holmcroft Hospital. It was eventually revealed, however, that there was insufficient surplus capacity for the Council's needs.

The summer of 1956 was noted for extremely heavy rainfall, when storms of excessive intensity were experienced. The storm relief sewer at Scholar Green mentioned in the Report for 1955 still proved effective but flooding from manholes was now experienced on the higher slopes of the Mow Cop hillside, particularly at The Bank. In reporting on this problem it was pointed out that a considerable column of surface water, presumably from roofs and yards, was finding access to the foul sewers, and as these sewers were designed on a "strictly separate" basis, flooding was inevitable. It appeared that the degree of separation necessary had not been obtained when the various properties were connected to the sewers. Apparently this was so because of the difficulty of separation which arose where a yard gully drained, also the sink waste and parts of the roof through rainwater fall pipes. Schemes for further storm relief sewers were prepared and a survey planned so that as much storm water as possible might be eliminated.

Details of the agreement for the reception and treatment of sewage from the Red Bull area of the parish of Church Lawton were agreed with the Kidsgrove Urban District Council and this has resulted in the scheme for the drainage of this part of the district being brought very much to the fore. With the proposed enlargement of the Kidsgrove Urban District Council's Works and the laying of sewers in the Rural District, the cause for complaints such as have been made in the past will be removed.

The work of maintenance has proceeded more satisfactorily during the year after the re-organisation of the staff. The problem of sludge removal at Odd Rode was solved by one farmer taking the whole year's accumulation. At Holmes Chapel, complete removal has not been effected for some time but there is ample storage accommodation at these works.

Housing—

The demand for new houses has considerably reduced and it seems likely that building may shortly cease in the Rural District except for the replacement of those classed as unfit.

Progress during the year in house building is shown in the following table which also indicates the total number of dwellings owned by the Council.

				at Dec. 1955	at Dec. 1956
Pre 1939	...	...	...	171	171
Post 1945	...	...	...	655	758
Under construction				72	42
				898	971

At the beginning of the year, building was active under ten Contracts on seven sites, whereas at the year's end there were only four Contracts running on two sites. Contracts were completed at Hassall Green, Booth Bed Lane, Goostrey (2), Meadow Bank (shops), Fir Close, Arclid. The types of dwelling including shops with living accommodation, bungalows, houses and two-storied flats.

Twelve of these flats have been erected in earlier years at Meadow Bank. They had lagged timber floors, but the sound-proofing was not completely effective. In this more recent scheme at Hassall Green, concrete floors have been used at extra cost with considerably greater success.

The Council's first venture in the erection of shops was successfully concluded with an opening ceremony at Meadow Bank, where four shops with living accommodation were erected to meet the needs of those living on the estate.

The tendency during the last few years has been to include an increasing number of bungalows and 2 bedroom houses in the programme. There appear to be sufficient 3 bedroom houses to meet the needs. The bungalows at Lawton Gate built around an internal quadrangle will be completed next year. The area of land in front of this group of aged persons' bungalows is to be left open without gates and with merely a low beech hedge on the road boundary. It would seem that the Council will need to consider the possibility of such open frontages being maintained by their own staff.

The need for garages on housing sites has been revealed by the number of applications made and indiscriminate parking on verges, etc., but the Council was not permitted to proceed with their erection due to financial restrictions.

Maintenance of Council Houses—

The Council has, over the course of years, built up a repair staff consisting of a Foreman, Bricklayer, Plumber/Painters (2) and labourers (3). Transport and tools are provided.

This staff is just able to cope with the number of repairs considered to be necessary—about 1500 complaints are made by tenants each year but this figure appears to be reducing, presumably on account of the decision to make tenants responsible for the maintenance of small items such as sink plugs, W.C. pulls and grate bottoms. This repair staff also attends to other repairs to other Council property.

As electricity is provided in those parts of the District not previously serviced, it is the policy of the Council to wire those houses not originally wired and to have all connected to the mains supply. The ten houses in Bank House Lane, Smallwood were so connected after deterioration in the wiring system had been made good, for these houses were erected in 1939 and tenants since then have had to provide their own lighting by means of oil lamps.

There are quite a number of other sites in the Council's district still not served, notably that at Hassall Green, Betchton, where the Council have built 59 houses and flats since 1939. The prospects are that this parish of Betchton will have electricity by 1958.

Similarly the Council is preparing to bring up to "standard" those pre-war houses which are deficient in some respect compared with the post war house, e.g., the fitting of lavatory basins, the replacement of the coal fired washboiler with electric boilers, and the replacement of the painted baths.

With regard to the painting of Council houses, a small number were painted by the Council's own staff with good results both as to the quality of the work and as to the costs involved.

Private Development—

During the year, the Council have received for consideration 248 building plans. 35 of these were for the erection of private houses or the conversion of buildings into houses. Some 70 of the plans were for the erection of private garages. The remainder covered such alterations and improvements to property as required the submission of plans. These developments have necessitated in the region of 400 inspections.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Tuberculosis—

Five new cases were notified during 1956, four Pulmonary and one Non-Pulmonary. The number of people on the register at the 31st December, 1956 is shown in the table below.

		Up to 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	...	—	1	—	2	4	4	2	4	4	21
Female Pulmonary	...	—	—	1	6	4	3	—	1	—	15
Male Non-Pulmonary	...	—	—	5	4	2	1	—	—	—	12
Female Non-Pulmonary	...	—	—	4	5	4	2	4	1	—	20

For comparative purposes, I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1956 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1947.

Notifications — 1947 to 1956

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE										
UP to 1 year										
1- 5									1	1
5-15	2		2						1	1
15-25	1	1			1		1			
25-35			2	1	1	2			1	
35-45	1	1	1	1	1					
45-55			1							1
55-65				3	1		1			1
65 and over					1	1				
FEMALE										
UP to 1 year										
1- 5							1		1	
5-15					2	1	1			
15-25	2		1	1	1	3	1	2	2	2
25-35	1					1	1	1		1
35-45			1				1			.
45-55			1	1						
55-65									1	
65 and over	1									
TOTAL	5	4	3	0	7	3	6	1	7	4
										4
										3
										4
										1

Deaths — 1947 to 1956

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956		
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE												
UP to 1 year					1							
1- 5								1				
5-15												
15-25			1									
25-35			1	1								
35-45			1		1							
45-55	1			1					1			
55-65				1				1			1	
65 and over		1				1						1
FEMALE												
UP to 1 year												
1- 5												
5-15							1					
15-25			1									
25-35	1								1			
35-45					1					1		
45-55												
55-65												
65 and over	1											
TOTAL	3	1	1	1	3	0	2	1	2	0	1	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1956

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION												Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-6	10-14	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total cases notified				
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	2	—	16	5	1	—	—	24	14	—	—	
Whooping Cough 2	2	3	2	5	5	20	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	—	
Measles	—	1	1	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	3	1	9	1	2	
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	

The following sections of this report cover the work of the Public Health Inspector's Department and have been compiled by Mr. P. Kirkham, the Public Health Inspector.

Cleansing—

The Council's Scavenging Scheme has operated efficiently throughout the year. Working from its new central depot at Arclid, it has been found possible to maintain a regular weekly collection of house refuse over the greater part of the area. Only the most outlying houses are collected less frequently. The area is split into four districts—each served by a Karrier Gamecock Refuse Vehicle having a driver and two loaders. One of these vehicles was received in January and other three are about four years old. A spare vehicle, a Fordson 1948 is kept properly maintained and roadworthy enabling the service to continue in the event of any mechanical breakdown. The longest serving driver has been appointed as foreman and carries out an increasing number of minor repairs. A stock of necessary tools and plant is gradually being built up. All routine servicings are done by the drivers under supervision. Every vehicle is washed down weekly.

Disposal is by tipping at eight tips throughout the area. The year was found to be reasonably free of nuisance from insect infestation owing to early and continued treatment of the tips aided by an unusually poor summer. No serious infestation by rats occurred and the tips are regularly treated by the Council's operative.

Salvage of waste paper and cardboard has increased and a revenue of £315/2/5 received. Each vehicle has had a separate compartment fitted to one of its six shutters with a cubic capacity of $1\frac{2}{3}$ cubic feet. The price of waste paper has fallen considerably and the Council hope that the Waste Paper Recovery Association will be able to uphold its claim that the reduction is only a temporary one, and make good its promise that soon the trade will be able to take all the paper Local Authorities can salvage.

The staff have changed very little throughout the year and have performed their duties for the most part with efficiency and cheerfulness.

The composting of night soil is continued and an additional site prepared at the central depot for this purpose. Sale of this product has produced a revenue of £19/2/6.

The Council use a Karrier cesspool emptier for the emptying of 542 pail closets and vaults and for the desludging of septic tanks, etc. 443 pails are emptied weekly and 99 vaults fortnightly. The Council make a charge for emptying private tanks of £1 for the first load and 10/- for each subsequent load. Industrial installations are charged £2 for each load.

It is estimated that approximately twelve hours weekly is at present available for the cesspool emptier to service septic tanks. Approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours weekly was spent in 1956 on emptying Council tanks but this is to be increased to approximately 7 hours. 41 Council tanks require 128 visits in a year to give satisfactory servicings and in addition, the services of the cesspool emptier are called upon from time to time for duties at the major works, sewers, etc. The two industrial tanks are serviced regularly and an average of $2\frac{1}{4}$ hours weekly is spent on this item.

The remaining time available for work on private tanks does not average more than 2—4 hours weekly. In 1956 an average of just under four hours weekly was spent emptying 87 tanks with a total of 104 servicings. It is estimated that there are approximately 800 private tanks in the area.

The following are the details of work carried out in 1956 by the cesspool emptier during its 12 hours weekly on tanks :—

	No. of Loads	No. of Hours	No. of Visits	No. of different tanks
Industrial	136	119	27	2
Council	251	276	89	47
Private	195	201	104	87
Lawton, Snapes Aquaduct	10	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	1
Outside Area ...	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	593	599	222	138

The following are statistics relating to the Council's Vehicles:—

Number	Make	Duty	Mileage	Petrol	m.p.g.
PMB 601	Karrier	Refuse collection	8021	1651	4.8
PMB 602	Karrier	Refuse collection	6640	1151	5.7
PMB 603	Karrier	Refuse collection	7476	1061	7.0
WMA363	Karrier	Refuse collection	7561	1139	6.6
PMB 604	Karrier	Night soil & septic tanks	11491	1869	6.1
KMA 128	Fordson	Spare vehicle—Refuse or nightsoil	2168	376	5.7

Food and Food Premises

1956 brought with it the new Food Hygiene Regulations. Owing to pressure of other duties it has not been found possible to survey all food premises but a determined start has been made. A total of 159 visits have been made to food premises, and letters sent regarding contravention of the Regulations in 59 cases. The traders are generally found to be fully co-operative and good progress is being made in securing a better standard of hygiene and provision of the facilities as required by the Regulations. Regulation 16 is being interpreted as requiring a fixed wash/hand basin and the offer of a portable washbowl is not being accepted as complying with the Regulations. This opinion has not been seriously challenged. The following list shows types of premises in the district. 65 have been surveyed to ensure compliance with the Regulations:—

Grocers and General	38
Licenced Houses and Clubs	33
Cafes	19
Village Halls	8
School Canteens	16
Factory Canteens	6
Bakehouses	3
Sweets and Confectionery	6
Green Grocers	2
Butchers	7
Chemists	2
Fish and Chips	2
	—
	142

A copy of these Regulations was distributed gratis to all food premises within the Council's area.

The Schools are to receive attention by the Education Authority who have invited me to accompany them at the time of survey. Catering premises have been surveyed in the first instance as a priority.

18 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and one for the manufacture by the complete cold mix method under Section 16 (1) (a) of the Food and Drugs Act 1955. There are 7 other premises registered under Section 16 (1) (b), 2 Fish and Chip, 4 Sausage and Meat Pies and 1 Food Canning Factory.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Two private slaughterhouses operate and kill only for sale in shops attached. Their licences were renewed in 1956 for a period of three years expiring on the 31st July, 1959. The Council have adopted the new Byelaws to assist in administration.

185 visits have been made to the slaughterhouses during the year and the following table gives details of the work carried out :—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	124	73	—	290	31
Number inspected	124	73	—	290	31
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29	20	—	13	3
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	23.4	27.4	—	4.5	9.7
<i>Tuberculosis:</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	1	2	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	14	—	—	3
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	9.7	21.9	—	—	9.6
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised & totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

During absence owing to leave or sickness an inspector from a neighbouring authority acts as relief on a reciprocal basis.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1953—1954

5 licences were issued to people residing in the area.

Milk Regulations 1949

The whole of the Council's area was declared during the year to be a "specified" one for the sale of designated milks only. The

number of dealers licences has accordingly been increased as some farmers have had to purchase bottled milks for sale to their customers previously supplied with undesignated milks.

The following table shows the number of licences issued during the year :

Dealers—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	11
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	11

Supplementary—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	5
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	9

14 samples of milk taken by the County Council were found to be Tuberculous and in all cases the milk was sent to a dairy for heat treatment before sale.

A bottle of pasteurised milk was found to contain sediment and foreign matter. The matter was fully investigated with the County Council as Licensing Authority and with the District Council in whose area the pasteurising Plant was established. After the milk was found to satisfy the statutory test for pasteurised milk a cautionary letter was sent to the licensee.

A further complaint of foreign matter in a bottle of pasteurised milk was found on investigation to be the pupae of small fruit flies of the genus drosophila. This matter was referred to the Council in whose area the pasteurising plant was established.

Factories and Work Places—

The following tables give information as to the number of registered factories and inspection made :

	No. on register	No. of inspections	No. of written notices
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	7	2	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	40	19	5
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)...	...	—	—
	47	21	6

Cases in which defects were found

<i>Sanitary Conveniences:</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	6	5

Outworkers—

Wearing Apparel (making etc., cleaning and washing) ...	7
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Sanitary Inspections—

Summary of visits

Animals, Keeping of	8
Conversions	38
Drainage, including septic tanks, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	235
Dustbins ...	...	...	...	...	18
Factory, with Mechanical Power ...	...	...	...	...	19
Factory, without Mechanical Power ...	...	...	...	...	2
Factory, outworkers Mechanical Power ...	...	...	...	...	6
Food Premises, General ...	...	...	...	...	47
Food Premises, Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	3
Food Premises, Butchers ...	...	...	...	...	19
Food Premises, Cafe and Canteens ...	...	...	...	...	41
Food Premises, Dairy, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	8
Food Premises, Fish and Chips ...	...	...	...	...	4
Food Premises, Ice Cream ...	...	...	...	...	11
Food Premises, Hotels and Public Houses ...	...	...	...	...	15
Food Premises, Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	...	185
Food Premises, Unsound Food ...	...	...	...	...	9
Food Premises, Vehicles ...	...	...	...	...	2
Housing, General ...	...	...	...	...	223
Housing, Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	1
Housing, Council House Applications ...	...	...	...	...	186
Housing, Housing Act, 1949, I. Grants ...	...	...	...	...	189
Housing, Rural Housing Survey ...	...	...	...	...	1
Infectious disease ...	...	...	...	...	23
Infectious disease, Disinfection ...	...	...	...	...	18
Insect Pests ...	...	...	...	...	8
Insect Pests, Disinfestation ...	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisance, General ...	...	...	...	...	55
Nuisance, Housing ...	...	...	...	...	17
Petroleum ...	...	...	...	...	25
Rodent Control ...	...	...	...	...	21
Scavenging ...	...	...	...	...	31
Scavenging, Tips ...	...	...	...	...	29
Scavenging, Teams at work ...	...	...	...	...	25
Scavenging, Garages ...	...	...	...	...	176
Smoke Observations ...	...	...	...	...	7
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	...	...	...	...	30
Water Supply ...	...	...	...	...	17
Workplaces, Offices, Farms, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous, Interviews, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	39
					—
Total ...					1796

Number of complaints received ...	...	...	...	...	79
Number of Informal Notices Served ...	...	...	...	...	142
Number of Informal Notices Complied with ...	...	...	...	...	141
Number of Statutory Notices Served ...	...	...	...	...	13
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with by owners ...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with by Local Authority in default of owners ...	...	...	...	...	—

Conversions—

Upon provision of the first length of the public sewer at Goostrey, 9 properties were required under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to convert pail closets to water closets. Upon completion of the sewage works and sewers now under construction in this parish, it is hoped to have all the houses so converted and septic tanks abolished wherever possible.

Many owners have continued to convert to water closets in the absence of a public sewer by providing their own sewage installation. 27 such houses were converted at the time of carrying out Improvement Grant works.

Water Supply—

12 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and 6 were found to be satisfactory. Of the 6 unsatisfactory samples one house was subsequently demolished, one was closed for human habitation and 4 tenants advised to boil the water.

Routine samples are taken from time to time of a private water supply to the parish of Moreton and all were found to be satisfactory.

Malkins Bank Tip—

A nuisance occurred during the year from fumes and smoke from burning materials on a private tip. After protracted negotiations notice was served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requesting abatement. Although the nuisance was then abated, it was thought likely to recur as the fire was not properly extinguished. The case was taken to court early in 1957, with a view to securing a Nuisance Order and the case was adjourned sine-die.

Moveable Dwellings—

The Council has two licenced caravan sites, one in the parish of Goostrey and one in Byley. In addition, one site has been licenced in Somerford but planning approval has not yet been agreed. Two caravans were given limited approval on individual sites.

Owners of caravans and sites are often willing to provide permanent sanitary accommodation with septic tank and filter drainage on the site and the issue of a licence under the Public Health Act cannot reasonably be refused. Following issue of a Public Health Licence, planning approval in one case was refused. An appeal against refusal was made and has been allowed.

Rodent Control—

A full time Rodent Operative is employed and is given the use of a small van. Industrial and farm premises are treated on payment, mostly by contract. The following are details of the work carried out :

	<i>treated</i> <i>Number</i>	<i>of visits</i> <i>Number</i>
Dwelling Houses	...	29
L.A. premises (Tips & Sewage Works)	...	22
Industrial and Trade Premises	...	18
Farms	...	50
	—	—
	119	2290
	—	—

Warfarin and Oatmeal are used almost exclusively, and gassing wherever the site permits. The sewers were test baited in the summer with a negative result. A comprehensive survey of farms is being carried out as a routine and 158 have been so inspected during the year out of a total of approximately 500.

Petroleum (Consolidated) Acts 1928 and 1936—

The Council resolved to seek the advice of the Fire Preventive Officer of the Cheshire County Council in all cases of renewal of, or applications for new licences. Their recommendations have largely been made a "Condition of Licence" and it is hoped to set up a comprehensive set of standard conditions.

Housing—

Since completion of the Housing Survey in 1955 when 231 houses were found to be unfit for habitation and not capable of being made fit at reasonable cost, a further 23 houses have been found unfit and included in the five year programme making a total of 254 unfit houses. It is expected that a similar number will continue to require action from year to year.

During 1956, 5 houses were demolished and 36 unfit houses closed. 25 families were displaced totalling 61 persons. The Council have re-housed families from unfit houses at the following progressive rate :

1953	...	4
1954	...	9
1955	...	19
1956	...	22

17 houses have been brought up to standard since the survey and five of them now have baths and hot water systems with water closets, and Improvement Grants have been given in 4 cases.

The Council have under construction for the replacement of unfit houses a further 26 dwellings and plan to build 39 more during 1957-58.

On the Council's re-housing programme special consideration has been given to the building of bungalows for pensioners who have been found to occupy a high proportion of the unfit houses. 10 bungalows are under construction at Church Lawton and 11 at Kent Green. Out of the 26 proposed for slum clearance in 1957-58, 22 are to be bungalows for pensioners.

During the year, the following houses have been made fit or had defects remedied :

After informal action	...	...	...	...	35
After formal action under the Public Health Act...					6
After formal action under the Housing Act	...				7

Improvement Grants—

The Council has continued a very active policy in encouraging landlords and owner/occupiers to take advantage of the Improvement Grant Scheme. In 1956, 22 formal applications were made for Grants and 21 approved, the total cost of the grants completed was £5414. Of these cases, 15 were owner/occupier, 4 were farm cottages and 2 were rented properties. During the year, works were completed to 19 houses in the parish of Bradwall, all owned by one estate.

The following statistics of Improvement Grant works completed in the years 1952—1956 give a clear picture of the amount of work involved :

1952	...	1 house	...	£178	18	0
1953	...	1 house	...	£268	17	6
1954	...	5 houses	...	£935	2	6
1955	...	19 houses	...	£4314	16	0
1956	...	44 houses	...	£10121	15	6
Total amount of grant given ...				£15819	9	6

It is one of the most pleasant and encouraging duties to inspect these worthwhile works of Improvement. It often can be seen how the bringing of modern amenities to an old house has given the people enjoying them a justifiable pride in their home instead of previous discontent at the sub-standard conditions.

Certificates of Disrepair—

No applications for Certificates of Dis-repair were received in 1956. 4 applications for Revocation were received and granted. It is quite obvious that the scheme for the grant and revocation of these Certificates is moribund.

